

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of paying a merchant ~~by an administrator~~ for a claim service provided to a claimant, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a merchant by an administrator for a payment associated with a claim;

generating a claim identifier;

generating a payment number having a predetermined limit amount and a predetermined expiration date;

associating the claim identifier with the payment number using a processor; and

transmitting the payment number from the administrator to the merchant for payment of the claim on behalf of the claimant.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the claim is for a service rendered.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the claim is for a replacement product received.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a merchant for a payment associated with a claim further comprises, receiving an estimated cost of repair from the merchant.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing verification that the request received from the merchant is covered under a contract associated with the claimant.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating a payment number having a predetermined limit amount and a predetermined expiration date further comprises:

receiving an estimated cost of repair from the merchant; and  
authorizing the predetermined limit amount.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the claim identifier further comprises:

identifying a contract number assigned to a claimant;

generating a claim number; and

associating the claim number with the contract number.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising after transmitting the payment number to the merchant for payment of the claim:

tracking at least one merchant payment associated with the payment number; and

associating the payment number and the claim identifier with the at least one merchant payment.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising prior to tracking the at least one merchant payment:

transmitting a merchant payment request;

assigning an acceptance code to the merchant payment request; and

associating the acceptance code with the merchant payment.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

requesting a load of funds equal to the predetermined limit amount;

executing the load of funds;

generating a confirmation of the load of funds execution; and

reconciling the payment number and the claim identifier with the confirmation of the load of funds execution.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating a payment number having a predetermined limit amount and a pre-determined expiration date, further comprises selecting the payment number from a predetermined group of payment numbers.
12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the group of payment numbers is assigned to a service contract administrator.
13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the claim is an insurance claim.
14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the claim is a warranty claim.
15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the payment number is a credit card number.
16. (currently amended) A method of paying a merchant ~~by an administrator~~ for a claim service provided to a claimant, the method comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a request from a merchant by an administrator for a payment associated with a claim, the request further comprising an estimate for repair;
  - verifying that the request received from the merchant is covered under a contract associated with the claimant;
  - establishing a predetermined limit amount for the repair;
  - generating a claim identifier;
  - selecting a payment number, the selected payment number having the predetermined limit amount and a predetermined expiration date;
  - associating the claim identifier with the selected payment number using a processor;
  - transmitting the payment number from the administrator to the merchant for payment of the claim on behalf of the claimant;

providing funding for the predetermined limit amount associated with the selected payment number;

tracking a transaction amount associated with the selected payment number; and

reconciling the payment number and the claim identifier with the transaction amount.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein tracking a transaction amount further comprises:

tracking a plurality of transaction amounts and;

reconciling the payment number and the claim identifier with the plurality of transaction amounts.

18. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the claim identifier uniquely identifies the received claim request.

19. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the claim identifier is generated by the administrator of the claim.

20. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein the claim identifier uniquely identifies the received claim request.

21. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein the claim identifier is generated by the administrator of the claim.